

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04280 041745Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-10 EUR-12 NEA-09

/094 W

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R 041622Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4762

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: NEW GVN MINISTER OF INFORMATION

REF: SAIGON A-88, MAY 4, 1974

1. BG PHAN HOA HIEP TOOK OFFICE APRIL 4 AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION
REPLACING ACTING MINISTER DR. HO VAN CHAM.

2. SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT, BG HIEP HAS
SERVED FIRST AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE RVNAF DELEGATION TO THE FPJMC
AND MORE RECENTLY AS THE LATEST CHIEF OF THE RVNAF DELEGATION TO THE
TPJMC. IN THIS POSITION, BG HIEP HAS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND
IMAGINATION. HIS SKILLFUL HANDLING OF THE PRESS WITH WHOM HE
ENJOYED RELATIVELY AMICABLE RELATIONS REPORTEDLY HAS EARNED HIM
PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL AND AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF FREEDOM IN DEALING
WITH THE PRESS. CHAM WHO HAS BEEN SERVING CONCURRENTLY AS
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THAT
FUNCTION.

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COMMENT: THE GVN'S INEPT HANDLING OF INFORMATION DURING

THE BEGINNING PHASES OF THE NVA OFFENSIVE WAS WHOLLY UNEQUAL TO THE TASK OF MITIGATING THE SEVERE DEMORALIZATION CAUSED BY THE SUDDEN EVACUATION OF KONTUM AND PLEIKU AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS. WE EXPECT BG HIEP, WHO HAS AN APTITUDE FOR INFORMATION WORK AND IS WELL KNOWN TO PRESIDENT THIEU, WILL MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INFORMATION MINISTRY. HOWEVER, DEGREE TO WHICH HE OBTAINS COOPERATION AND COORDINATION FROM HIS OWN AND OTHER MINISTERIES (INCLUDING THE PSYWAR DIRECTORATE) AND REAL FREEDOM AND SUPPORT FROM THE TOP WILL DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF HIS SUCCESS.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON04280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0505
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750480/aaaacvho.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAIGON A-88, 75 MAY 4, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GVN MINISTER OF INFORMATION
TAGS: PINT, VS, (PHAN HOA HIEP)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006